

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044030
ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: AF/DO:JNACH

APPROVED BY: AF:RMMOSSE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 044030

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO TEL AVIV BEIRUT
DAMASCUS AMMAN JIDDA ATHENS ANKARA FROM NICOSI
DTD 18 FEB 1978 QTE

UNCLAS NICOSIA 0452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PPUS, PORS, CY

SUBJECT: ATTACK BY PALESTINIAN TERRORIST IN NICOSIA

REF NICOSIA 0451

1. A RELIABLE SOURCE AT HILTON HOTEL INFORMED THAT TWO TERRORISTS
WITH TWO MACHINE GUNS AND GRENADES HOLDING APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY
(70) HOSTAGES, ALL MALE, AT HOTEL COFFEE SHOP, NOT BAR, AS
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. TWO FEMALE HOSTAGES RELEASED.

2. LOCAL RADIO REPORTS TWO "COMMANDOS" OF UNKNOWN NATIONALITY,
BUT NOT CYPRIOT, OPENED FIRE AT SITE OF AAPSO CONFERENCE,
KILLING HEAD OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION UYSUF AL-SIBAI. AREA HAS BEEN
SEALED OFF AND INTERIOR MINISTER VENIAMIN, ACTING FONMIN
PATSAIDES AND OTHER GOC OFFICIALS ARE ON THE SCENE. EMBASSY
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PAGE 02 STATE 044030

POLICEMAN REPORTS THAT CONTACT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN GOC
OFFICIALS AND TERRORISTS IN ORDER START NEGOTIATIONS.

3. LATEST ITEM. AT 1300 HOURS LOCAL WE RECEIVED REPORT THAT THERE
APPEAR TO BE NO AMERICAN HOSTAGES BUT THIS NOT CONFIRMED.
TERRORISTS ARE SEPARATING HOSTAGES BY NATIONALITY, I.E. THOSE
THEY VIEW AS FRIENDLY, THOSE PROBABLY NOT FRIENDLY TO THEIR

CAUSE. TERRORISTS, ONE OF WHOM SPEAKS BROKEN ENGLISH, STATED
THEY ARE PLEADING THE PALESTINIAN CASE. THEY DEMANDED BUS,
WHICH NOW SITUATED OUTSIDE HOTEL, AND PLAN TO TAKE 30 HOSTAGES
TO LARNACA AIRPORT. CRAWFORD UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRORISTS, HOSTAGES, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE044030
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/DO:JNACH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780076-0950
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780236/aaaabeeee.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f01a61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NICOSIA 451
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3544448
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTACK BY PALESTINIAN TERRORIST IN NICOSIA
TAGS: PINS, PORS, CY
To: ADDIS ABABA MOGADISCIO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f01a61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014